

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00381 140855Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 /067 W

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R 140822Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2712

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SO, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO

1. YRMALI FONMIN ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER STAR ON MARCH 13 THAT FORTHCOMING ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT WOULD DEFINITELY BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO. NO DATE GIVEN.
2. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IS LESS OPTIMISTIC. HE TOLD ME MARCH 13 THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ARTEH STATEMENT, ARAB LEAGUE DECISION HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN MADE. HE SAID DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN IN CAIRO ON OR ABOUT MARCH 21.
3. HE NOTED THAT MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WAS WHETHER SOMALIA'S ECONOMIC DISTRESS, PRINCIPALLY DROUGHT EMERGENCY, WOULD ARGUE AGAINST MOGADISCIO VENUE. HE THOUGHT ARAB LEAGUE MIGHT WISH AVOID OSTENTATIOUS DISPLAY OF POLITICAL CARPETBAGGING AT TIME WHEN THOUSANDS OF SOMALIS GATHERED IN REFUGEE CAMPS. FYI: MANY SOMALIS COMPLAINED OF 1974 OAU SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO, WHOSE EXTRAVAGANCES THEY RELATED DIRECTLY TO SUBSEQUENT GSDR BUDGETARY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF SOME SUBSIDIES ON FOOD IMPORTS. END FYI.
4. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S CAUTION ALSO REFLECTS HIS READING

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OF LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION AS WELL, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY

THAT ARAB GATHERING IN MOGADISCIO COULD BRING TO SURFACE
ANTI-REGIME FEELINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN STIRRING SINCE EXECUTION
OF SHEIKHS. MOREOVER, SOME ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE BELIEVE RECENT
SIAD WARNINGS ABOUT QUOTE COLONIALIST PRESSURES UNQUOTE REFER
TO THOSE ORIGINATING FROM ARAB LEAGUE. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES,
THEY HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO WHETHER AN ARAB SUMMIT IN
MOGADISCIO WOULD BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE AT THIS TIME.

5. IN MEANTIME, ARABIC SIGNS HAVE BEGUN APPEARING IN SOME
SHOPS, AND IN PUBLIC ARENAS, INCLUDING STADIUM AND NATIONAL
THEATRE. THEY WERE NOT THERE A MONTH AGO.
HAMRICK

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